

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

3810 Rosin Court, Suite 150  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Carl DeWing  
(916) 263-7949

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**DRUG SALES/PROSTITUTION TO EFFECT STANTON BAR LIQUOR LICENSE**

**Stanton** – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) will be taking administrative action against the Venus Bar, 11572 Beach Boulevard in Stanton, for drug sales and solicitation for prostitution by employees. The pending action follows a two-month undercover investigation by investigators from ABC's Santa Ana District Office, with assistance from the Orange County Sheriff's Department, resulting in the arrest of three people last Friday night. Two others are also being sought on drug charges.

During the course of the investigation, a patron sold undercover investigators cocaine on two occasions. At the time of his arrest, the suspect was in possession of cocaine.

Two employees were also arrested. A bouncer sold marijuana to an investigator on two separate occasions. A waitress was also arrested for solicitation for an act of prostitution.

Two waitresses are being sought for reportedly facilitating the sale of illegal drugs. One carried money to the bouncer and then returned to the investigator with the marijuana. Another took money to an unidentified patron, and returned with marijuana to the investigator.

Following a review of the investigation, the ABC Santa Ana District Office Administrator is expected to file administrative action against the bar. The action may be a suspension of the bar's liquor license, or the complete and permanent revocation of the license.

The owners of the bar may appeal a proposed penalty. However, evidence gathered during the investigation is expected to result in a significant action against the license.

Criminal charges are expected to be filed against the patron and employees by the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.